

This update is critical because, while the current law prohibits the destruction of religious real property, it did not previously specify that threats against religious real property, such as threats of violence against Jewish community centers, are also hate crimes.

Finally, while this bill addresses religious hate crimes, we must remember that the motivations behind hate crimes extend far beyond religion. It does not matter if it is a crime based on one's religion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, or any other element of our shared humanity.

I am hopeful that the Judiciary Committee can continue to work together to protect all victims of hate, regardless of whom they are, whom they love, where they worship, or where they are from. Thank you.

#### HARD RELEASES OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, through the Wilderness Act of 1965, Congress reserves the authority to designate as Wilderness Areas certain Federal lands with remarkable natural and ecological values. Over the last 53 years, the Wilderness Act has been referred to as the gold standard of conservation, providing the highest level of protections for some of America's most treasured public lands. In addition to congressionally designated Wilderness Areas, the Wilderness Act gave the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to study and evaluate the wilderness characteristics of public lands under their respective jurisdictions. Once identified, the Forest Service manages lands with wilderness potential as an "inventoried roadless area," and the Bureau of Land Management manages lands with wilderness potential as "wilderness study areas." These designations are not always without controversy but are critical in providing a measure of interim protection for wilderness-quality lands while Congress deliberates on further, permanent protections.

The Crooked River Ranch Fire Protection Act, which the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee reported yesterday, adjusts the boundaries of the Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Area in Central Oregon, removing over 600 acres of land from interim protection under the Wilderness Act. The Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Areas contains cultural and historical artifacts, provides drinking water for thousands of Oregonians, and provides critical habitat for fish and wildlife species, some of which are threatened or endangered.

Proponents of this legislation argue that the release of the acres from interim protection under the wilderness study area designation is necessary. According to the proponents, the "release" language was necessary to allow Federal land managers greater flexibility in conducting hazardous fuels re-

duction projects to better protect the adjacent community, Crooked River Ranch, from the threat of wildfires. In truth, hazardous fuels reduction projects technically could have taken place under existing land designations.

Adding insult to injury, the Crooked River Fire Protection Act originally gave no direction on how the BLM should manage the released lands. In addition, the original bill fell short in addressing the wildfire concerns while allowing for the release of wilderness study area acreage from interim protection without any corresponding lands protections. This is just a lost opportunity for compromise and comity. In an attempt to provide local landowners some measure of certainty over how the released lands will be managed, I worked to clarify that the released lands will be managed in a way that improves fire resiliency and forest health, while preventing off-road recreational vehicle use, which could actually increase the risk of wildfires.

While these changes do not address the future management of the entire Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Area, it does provide management direction for the released lands and pushes the BLM to meet the goals of the legislation: to promote fire resiliency and forest health. I am committed to finding a path forward for a solution for the entire wilderness study area in line with the traditions of compromise and doing things the Oregon way.

#### HONORING OFFICERS JAMES WHITE, WALTER MOAK AND JOSH SMITH

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, flags in Mississippi are flying at half-staff as my State mourns the loss of hometown heroes. The Mississippi Highway Patrol Honor Guard stands vigil over three fallen comrades, who swore to protect and serve their communities.

Mississippi law enforcement lost three officers in 2 days.

Early Saturday morning in Brookhaven, Officer James Kevin White of Sontag and Corporal Walter Zachery Marshall Moak of Brookhaven gave their lives in the line of duty.

On Sunday, off-duty Mississippi Highway Patrol Trooper Kenneth Joshlin "Josh" Smith of Walnut was fatally shot near the Tippah and Alcorn county line.

James was 35. Zach was 31. Josh was 32. They leave behind children, wives, parents, and siblings, but they will be remembered not only by their families, but by grateful communities. I know this because I live in Brookhaven. These men protected my family and my neighbors, and I am so thankful for their service.

Local media in Brookhaven and Corinth have published tributes to these men, their service, and those they have left behind.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a September 29, 2018, article

from Brookhaven Daily Leader, titled, "Officers Remembered as Men of Service," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### OFFICERS REMEMBERED AS MEN OF SERVICE

(By Adam Northam)

James Kevin White wasn't about to give up the fight.

He was serving with the Mississippi National Guard in Iraq when his convoy rolled over a roadside bomb, flinging shrapnel into his knee and tearing at his face. The wounds were serious, and the Army gave Lincoln County's White a chance to go home.

"He said, 'No,'" said White's sister, Lisa White of Vicksburg. "He was still able to walk and fight, and that's what he was gonna do. He wasn't going to give up, or take an easy way out. He stayed, throughout his tour."

White, 35, came home from the war and went straight into law enforcement, and he served the community in that role for the rest of his life, until his death in the line of duty in Brookhaven Saturday morning. He'd been in the Guard since he was 17, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, the late J.C. White Jr., a military veteran, and serving the law was just the next step.

"He just wanted things to be right. He wanted to make a difference," his sister said. "He lived and breathed law enforcement—he'd have given me a ticket for going 5 miles over the speed limit I wasn't safe. Nobody was."

White got into law enforcement through communications, working as a dispatcher for the Mississippi Highway Patrol. He went to the academy, but the knee injury from Iraq forced him to drop out. He started a family—his boys, 8-year-old J.C. and 7-year-old Lee, go to school at Enterprise Attendance Center, their father's alma mater—and put law enforcement on hold as long as he could.

But service brought him back. He worked as a deputy for the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office from 2016-2018.

"He was a good officer, and he loved law enforcement," said Lawrence County Sheriff Lessie Butler. He remembers White's attention to detail. "His uniform had to be just about perfect," he said.

Cpl. Brandon Fortenberry with the Mississippi Highway Patrol knew White about 10 years, and the two talked often when both were out on the patrol, even when they were no longer working in the same agency.

"He was always a go-getter. He was not one to turn back, he always had a leader's mindset," Fortenberry said. "He was always the one I could trust to come back me up on those late-night shifts. I could depend on him being there for me."

White's sister said he loved his boys, loved her own children. His passing has left an emptiness in the hearts of his family, who are coming together from across the South to mourn him.

"I don't know how I feel," she said. "I don't know what I think. I just don't know."

The other Brookhaven officer lost Saturday was also raised with a heart of service.

"When Zach was growing up, we told him, 'Whatever you want to do—do whatever makes you happy,'" said Janie Stogner, owner of Janie's Pastry Shop. "We told him, 'That's what you go for.'"

What made Lincoln County's Zach Moak, 31, happy was service.

So, he went for it.

Stogner's nephew became a law enforcement officer, serving as a reserve deputy